

EPA REGION III
EnviroBytes
A SUMMARY OF ISSUES & EVENTS
For the Week Ending August 31, 2001

Welcome to *Enviro-Bytes*, a weekly news wrap-up from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3 mid-Atlantic office in Philadelphia.

SECRET SERVICE RECOGNIZES EPA LAB SUPPORT

On August 27, 2001, a division of the U.S. Secret Service visited the Environmental Science Center at Fort Meade, Md., to present a plaque of appreciation to the EPA Office of Analytical Services and Quality Assurance for outstanding weekly testing and evaluation of water quality at several sites for a period of more than six years.

RA SIGNATURE AUTHORIZES D.C. TO ADMINISTER PROGRAM

On August 23, Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh signed the Federal Register notice authorizing the District of Columbia to administer the federal hazardous waste program. The RA's approval marks the culmination of a five-year effort by EPA to bring all Region III states up to date in their authorizations to administer the RCRA program.

EPA OVERSEES CLEANUP OF VIRGINIA SPILL

On August 29, a transformer at a Virginia Power substation in Fairfax County ruptured, spilling 11,000 gallons of mineral oil. Although fast action on the part of the fire department and Virginia Power contained the oil in dams, some oil was found in nearby Piney Branch Creek. The incident cut off power for half an hour to about 6,000 customers. So far approximately 6,000 gallons of the oil have been recovered, and EPA is working with local officials to clean up the remaining 5,000 gallons. An EPA on-site coordinator is overseeing the cleanup.

EPA JOINS EFFORT TO PROTECT ENDANGERED MUSSELS IN PA

EPA, DEP, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have established a plan to study the wastewater treatment plant discharges into Conneaut outlet, a small stream in northwestern Pennsylvania, to ensure the survival of the endangered clubshell mussel. This coming fall, a mussel survey, a biological evaluation of the stream and a discharge mixing study will be conducted to determine appropriate permit conditions and to reduce the pollutants of concern, such as ammonia and total residual chloride.

EPA HOSTS PAY-AS-YOU-THROW TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

Representatives from seven communities in Pennsylvania and Delaware attended the PAYT workshop presented by EPA on August 24. PAYT is promoted nationally as a program where residents are charged for the collection of solid waste based upon the amount they throw away. The program has led to increased recycling nationally and to decreased waste generation in more than 4,000 communities. A current workshop focused on technical issues, was geared toward Abington Township, Pa., which is considering a PAYT program.

EPA PARTICIPATES IN A HARVEST HOEDOWN AT FAIRMONT PARK

On September 15-16, the Region III pesticides and asbestos programs and enforcement branch will create an educational exhibit at the 2001 Philadelphia Harvest Show. The display will be feature live plants, scarecrows, and information on harvesting gardens the healthy way utilizing integrated pest management techniques.

EPA AWARDS GRANT TO PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

On August 21, Region III awarded a strategic agricultural initiative grant to the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture. This grant will enable the grantee to design a farm-based program for farmers to learn about pesticide reduction from peer farmers. The program will involve field days and informational resources, as well as farmer-initiated demonstration projects. An objective of the project is to assist farmers to switch to low pesticide use and the use of organic techniques.

EPA SEEKS PENALTIES AGAINST THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE FOR CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS

EPA Region III filed an administrative complaint on August 21, 2001, proposing to assess a civil penalty of \$137,500 against the city of Cambridge, Md. Cambridge failed to comply with the terms of its NPDES Permit and the Clean Water Act in its publicly-owned and operated treatment works. The facility discharges sewage to the Choptank River.

If you would like to receive a copy of Enviro-Bytes regularly by e-mail, please:

1. send a message to: listserv@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov
 2. the subject may be anything
 3. in the body of the message, type: subscribe usepar3news (your name)
-

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/region03>

Customer Service Hotline..... 1-800-438-2474

Business Assistance Hotline..... 1-800-228-8711

Superfund Hotline..... 1-800-553-2509
